



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

***UTAH PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:***

***GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS CHARGING  
INDIVIDUALS WITH VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL  
GUN LAWS, MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS***

***FIREARMS INVOLVED IN INDICTMENTS  
WERE USED BY SALEJMAN TALOVIC  
IN FEBRUARY SHOOTINGS AT TROLLEY SQUARE***

SALT LAKE CITY – A federal grand jury returned two indictments Wednesday afternoon, unsealed Thursday morning, charging four individuals with violations of federal law in connection with an investigation into how Salejman Talovic got the firearms he used during the February 12, 2007, shootings at Trolley Square in Salt Lake City.

The indictments were announced today by U.S. Attorney for Utah Brett L. Tolman; Lori Dyer, Resident Agent-in-Charge of the Salt Lake City ATF Office; Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank. Chief Burbank was represented at a press conference in Salt Lake City today by Assistant Chief

Scott Atkinson. FBI Special Agent in Charge Tim Fuhrman also participated in the press conference.

Three individuals are charged in one indictment. They are Mackenzie Glade Hunter, age 19, of West Jordan; Brenden Taylor Brown, age 20, of West Jordan; and Matthew Hautala, age 20, of Rock Springs, Wyo. Hunter is charged with one count of possession of a firearm by a user of controlled substances and one count of unlawful transfer of a firearm to a juvenile (felony). Brown is charged with one count of making a false material statement and one count of unlawful transfer of a firearm to a juvenile (misdemeanor). Hautala is charged with making a false material statement.

Westley Wayne Hill, age 38, of West Valley City, is charged in a second indictment with one count of unlawful transfer of a firearm and one count of failure to make appropriate entry and maintain required records.

Federal prosecutors say there is no evidence that any of the people charged in the indictments unsealed today knew that Talovic would ultimately use the guns in a random attack at Trolley Square.

“The message today is this: If these individuals had followed federal firearms laws already on the books, Sulejman Talovic would not have had the weapons he used in the tragedy we saw unfold at Trolley Square,” Tolman said. “We recognize and support the right of individuals to own firearms. However, Congress has acted to put in place some restrictions which serve important purposes in protecting our community. These laws include restrictions about the kinds of weapons a juvenile under the age of 18 or a young adult under the age of 21 may purchase or possess,” Tolman said.

Tolman acknowledged and praised the coordinated efforts of the Salt Lake City Police Department and the ATF, working as a part of the Utah Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force, in the firearms investigation, which is ongoing. Utah PSN is an anti-gun violence initiative focusing on the enforcement of federal firearms laws in an effort to make Utah communities safer.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank said, “I’m very pleased with the investigative efforts and the cooperation that has taken place between the Salt Lake City Police Department, the ATF, and the U.S.

Attorney's Office. I feel it is very important that in circumstances such as these, that we hold individuals who deal in, trade or sell illegal firearms accountable for their actions."

The indictment charging Hunter, Brown, and Hautala relates to a Smith & Wesson .38 Special, Model 36 revolver, which Talovic used to kill one of the first victims at Trolley Square.

According to federal prosecutors, the revolver was provided to Hunter in Wyoming. (There is an ongoing investigation in Wyoming. No charges have been filed.) Hunter brought the weapon back to Salt Lake City and gave it to a friend, who is not included in the indictment. This friend sold the revolver to Brown.

In the meantime, prosecutors believe Talovic approached Hunter asking for help getting a gun. Hunter contacted Brown, who at that point had the revolver. The two arranged to sell the handgun to Talovic at a fast food restaurant in the Salt Lake City area. The indictment alleges the transfer was made on or between June 16 and July 28, 2006.

The indictment alleges Hunter knew the person he was transferring the gun to and had reasonable cause to believe the person was a juvenile. The indictment further alleges that Hunter had reasonable cause to know that the juvenile intended to carry or otherwise possess or discharge or otherwise use the handgun in the commission of a crime of violence, although Hunter believed he was going to use it to commit a bank robbery.

It appears that Talovic, who was 17 and a juvenile when the handgun was transferred to him during the summer of 2006, had the gun in his possession until he used it at Trolley Square in February 2007.

The allegations against Brown include what federal prosecutors believe was a false material statement made to an agent. Brown stated that he did not purchase, receive or subsequently sell and transfer a handgun in the summer of 2006 and that he had never owned a firearm. The indictment alleges that statement is false.

The false statement charge against Hautala alleges that he told an agent he knew nothing of a the transfer of a handgun to Mackenzie Hunter or drug distribution among individuals in Rock Springs, Wyo., in June 2006,

when, the indictment alleges, he was in fact a witness to and involved in such activities at that time.

The second indictment charges Hill, a licensed federal firearms dealer, with selling a Maverick Arms, Model 88, 12-gauge firearm, a weapon that is not a rifle or a shotgun, to a purchaser under the age of 21, and failing to fully complete an ATF form required when selling a firearm to an individual with resident alien status.

The weapon Talovic bought from Hill was not equipped with a shoulder stock and was not designed to be fired from the shoulder. It was not manufactured as a shotgun as defined by federal law, and therefore could not be sold to someone under 21.

Arrest warrants were issued for Hunter, Brown and Hautala. Hunter and Brown self-surrendered Thursday morning and were arraigned in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Samuel Alba. Federal prosecutors asked for Brown to be detained and Judge Alba scheduled a detention hearing for Friday at 9:30 a.m. Hunter was released under strict conditions. Hautala is in the Army in South Carolina. He will be returned to Utah to face the federal charges. Brown and Hunter pleaded not guilty. A four-day jury trial was set for July 16, 2007, in U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball's courtroom.

A summons was issued for Hill, who also appeared Thursday morning for an arraignment. He pleaded not guilty and a trial date was set for July 16, 2007, before Judge Kimball.

The potential maximum penalties for the charges include up to 10 years for a user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm; up to 10 years for providing a handgun to a person under 18 years of age (count against Hunter) and up to one year for Brown (he is charged with a misdemeanor in this count); up to five years for making a false material statement; up to five years for unlawful transfer of a firearms that is not a shotgun or a rifle to a person under 21 years old; and up to one year for failure to make appropriate entry and maintain required records.

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